

July 8, 1776

Col. John Nixon gave the first  
public reading of the Declaration  
of Independence, in Philadelphia.

July 9, 1776

The Declaration of Independence was  
read aloud to Gen. George Washington's  
troops in New York.

June 29, 1776

The Virginia state constitution was adopted and Patrick Henry made governor.

June 7, 1776

Richard Henry Lee of Virginia  
proposed in the Continental Congress a  
resolution calling for a  
Declaration of Independence.

May 4, 1776

Rhode Island declared its freedom  
from England two months before  
the Declaration of Independence was  
adopted.

June 11, 1776

The Continental Congress formed  
a Committee to draft a Declaration  
of Independence from Britain